

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Division of Measurement Standards
8500 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, CA 95826



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TO THE INDUSTRY MEMBER ADDRESSED

For the past ten years California law has required the labeling of the motor oil used in gasoline engines to describe the appropriate application of that oil. Specifically, Division 5, Chapter 14, Section 13482 of the California Business and Profession Code states the following:

"It is unlawful for any person to sell or distribute engine oil or axle and manual transmission lubricant unless the SAE/API service classification is conspicuously marked on each container. Each container of engine oil with a volume of one gallon or less shall bear a plainly visible statement indicating generally the automobile model years or condition of service for which the engine oil is suitable for gasoline engines as described in SAE J183."

API Service Category SA, SAE J183 now contains a specific recommended labeling practice. The following statement is now considered "reasonable and prudent" by SAE to be included on the label of SA motor oil containers:

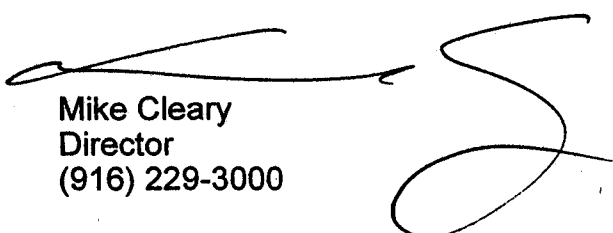
"CAUTION - THIS OIL IS RATED API SA. IT CONTAINS NO ADDITIVES. IT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR USE IN MOST GASOLINE-POWERED AUTOMOTIVE ENGINES BUILT AFTER 1930. USE IN MODERN ENGINES MAY CAUSE UNSATISFACTORY ENGINE PERFORMANCE OR EQUIPMENT HARM."

California law now mandates that this language be included on all containers of SA motor oil of one gallon or less. We will no longer accept other statements to satisfy the labeling requirement specified in Section 13482 after March 1, 2001. Existing stock on hand may continue to be sold as labeled until July 1, 2001.

Any questions regarding this change should be directed to:

Al Hebert
Petroleum Products Chemist III
Division of Measurement Standards
8500 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 229-3030.

Sincerely,


Mike Cleary
Director
(916) 229-3000